

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Monday, September 26, 2016, 3:30PM - 5:00PM
The Mershon Center for International Security Studies
1501 Neil Avenue, Room 120
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Please note this is an internal Mershon Center event. Mershon affiliates may register by emailing Steven Blalock at blalock.33@osu.edu.

An opportunity for graduate students who have received Mershon Graduate Student Research Grants to present their research projects to Mershon faculty affiliates.

Panelists include:

Gabriella Lloyd, Ph.D. candidate in Political Science, "Security-Building Through Peacekeeping? U.N. Peacekeeping and Police Reform in Post-Civil Conflict States"

Gabriella's dissertation studies the problematic relationship between United Nations peacekeeping and political violence against civilians. Following the peacekeeping failures of Rwanda, Bosnia, Haiti, and Somalia in the early 1990's, the U.N. integrated new principles of Responsibility to Protect into peacekeeping, deploying new missions tasked with building human security in secure places.

Gabriella demonstrates that these new forms of peacekeeping often produce counter-productive results. As non-state actors, rebels are undeterred by many of the costs imposed by mandates, which primarily target the behavior of governments and their use of state institutions. Quite the contrary, she will argue that these missions may actually increase victimization in order to gain the upper hand in conflict or negotiations.

Having established this as an issue, she will explore a number of potential solutions, including close coordination with foreign donors and international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. By coordinating with these actors to restrict foreign assistance and international lines of credit for those who harm civilians—especially rebels and states that finance rebels—she argues that the United Nations can make significant strides toward its goal of protecting civilians.

This project has been made possible with support from the Mershon Center. It will serve as a foundation for a book manuscript on the relationship between U.N. peacekeeping and political violence against civilians. To test the argument, Gabriella will draw on original data on U.N. mission mandates and existing data on several of the most common forms of political violence, including purposeful killing, sexual violence, and government repression. Disaggregated data on all tasks assigned to UN missions in their mandates will be collected.

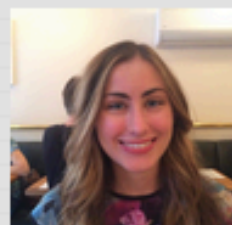
Trisha Myers, Ph.D. candidate in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, "Reform and Justice in the Middle East: Past and Present Discourses"

The discourse of "democratization" in the contemporary Middle East often fails to take into account indigenous discussions of what constitutes good governance. A part of this process is locating the social and political forces that shape these concerns in everyday conceptualizations of the state and its relationship to the people. It is a relationship that is based on exchange and expectations of the fulfillments of duties on behalf of both the government and the citizenry.

At the core of this conceptualization is an ancient concept that has been revised over time in various contexts to reflect contemporary realities: the circle of justice. The pursuit of justice through constitutionalist movements, liberal reform attempts, and strains of Islamic activism throughout the Middle East in various nations and at different points in time elucidate this enduring motivation. Democracy is not an indigenous practice, nor a goal cited by Middle Eastern states or intellectuals. Instead, securing justice has been the dominant discourse espoused by Islamists, by Communists, feminists, and modernists at various points in time in Iraq, Egypt, Turkey, Palestine, and Iran.

Trisha's research focuses on the Ottoman historical context of contemporary perceptions of justice in the Middle East. Specifically she studies the genre of political literature called the *nasihatname* or advice treatise. These works, written by statesmen and intellectuals from the sixteenth through the eighteenth century, arose from the need to explicate the nature of Ottoman statecraft and as such, determine its duties and faults, while also prescribing remedies to the empire's ills. I argue that such works of advice contributed to the more overtly reformist treatises developed in the nineteenth century, which employed the concept of justice in a different, more modern way.

These discussions of reform and justice have continued to shape the political, social, and economic framework through which the relationship between state and society is negotiated in the contemporary Middle East, far outlasting the Ottoman Empire. While the language of justice is one well understood by many in the Middle East; calls for democracy as understood by the United States and Europe may as well be in a foreign language. Trish argues it is critical to trace the legacy of justice from its established origins, namely the Ottoman *nasihatname*, in order to make sense of contemporary discourses surrounding governance, reform, human rights, and democracy in the Middle East. Due to her specialization and experiences doing research in Istanbul this past year, as well as current events, this talk will center mostly on modern Turkey to illustrate these points.



Gabriella Lloyd
PhD candidate in Political
Science
The Ohio State University



Trish Myers
PhD candidate in Near
Eastern Languages and
Cultures
The Ohio State University